



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Visalia, CA*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Visalia was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Approximately 70 percent of Visalia's population of 98,812 is minority. The city's poverty rate is 31.8 percent, compared to the national average of 12.4 percent. The unemployment rate of 16.7 percent is nearly three times that of the national average. The population of the target area is 14,543. Redevelopment of these brownfields is expected to provide a retail, entertainment, civic, and commercial center in the city, thereby generating new jobs, increasing tax revenues, and addressing environmental justice issues.



### Assessment Grant

**New  
2004**

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Visalia for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds and petroleum grant funds will both be used to evaluate and conduct Phase I environmental assessments on selected parcels northeast of downtown Visalia, in an old industrial area contaminated with arsenic, petroleum, and lead. Funds also will be used for community outreach. The city owns or has options to buy most of the land at this 65-acre site. After redevelopment, the area will become a government and commercial center.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team

415-972-3188

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/>

Grant Recipient: Visalia, CA

559-713-4312

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.